



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

1130 O Street, Room 3654
Fresno, California 93721

559/498-7272
Fax 559/498-7432

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**INDICTMENT FOR SMUGGLING DRUGS INTO
ATWATER FEDERAL PENITENTIARY**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor Scott announced today that Carlito Velasco, age 45, and Myrna Dagdagan, age 38, were indicted today by a federal grand jury in Fresno on charges involving the smuggling of heroin into the Atwater Federal Penitentiary. Warden Paul M. Schultz indicated that Velasco and Dagdagan's case is the first indictment stemming from activity in the penitentiary since it began accepting prisoners in January, 2002.

Velasco is an inmate at the penitentiary, who was convicted of federal drug trafficking crimes in 1995. The indictment alleges that Dagdagan, who was not in custody, smuggled balloons of heroin into the visiting room at the Atwater Federal Penitentiary, and then hid the heroin filled balloons in a bag of popcorn. Velasco then swallowed the balloons in an attempt to bring the heroin into the inmate housing area.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kevin P. Rooney, who is prosecuting the case, Velasco and Dagdagan are each facing a maximum sentence of 25 years in federal prison if convicted as charged. Velasco's sentence would be consecutive to the federal prison term he is already serving.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Atwater Special Investigative Services, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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